

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0046] as follows:

[0046] A “double-stranded DNA epitope” or “dsDNA epitope” (used interchangeably herein) is any chemical moiety which exhibits specific binding to an anti-double-stranded DNA antibody and, as such, includes molecules which comprise such epitope(s). Further discussion of double-stranded DNA epitopes suitable for use in the methods of the invention are described below. The term “dsDNA epitope” also includes mimetics of double-stranded DNA itself, which are described below. Examples of analogs or mimetics of double-stranded DNA that are encompassed by the term “dsDNA epitope” include, but are not limited to, (a) single-stranded DNA polynucleotides that preferentially bind anti-dsDNA antibodies and (b) the pentapeptide Asp/Glu-Trp-Asp/Glu-Tyr-Ser/Gly (SEQ ID NO:3) (DeGiorgio et al. (2001) *Nature Medicine* 7:1189-1193; Putterman and Diamond (1998) *J. Exp. Med.* 188:29-38; Gaynor et al. (1997) *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA* 94:1955-1960).

Please amend paragraph [0131] as follows:

[0131] In some embodiments, the polynucleotide is single-stranded DNA comprising, consisting essentially of, or consisting of the sequence 5'-GTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGTGT-3' (SEQ ID NO:1). In some alternative embodiments, the polynucleotide is single-stranded DNA comprising, consisting essentially of, or consisting of the sequence 3'-CACACACACACACACA-5' (SEQ ID NO:2). In another embodiment, the dsDNA epitope comprises, consists essentially of, or consists of the pentapeptide sequence Asp/Glu-Trp-Asp/Glu-Tyr-Ser/Gly (SEQ ID NO:3).